



## Embassy of the United States of America

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## Ninety-eight La Paz Schools Participate in USAID-Sponsored Student Mural Painting Contest

Ninety-eight schools of the city of La Paz participated enthusiastically in the First Annual Student Mural Painting Contest, based on the theme "Every Day is Earth Day." The contest was sponsored by the U.S. Agency for International Development's (USAID) Environmental Program and by the Municipal Government of La Paz through its Cultural Office to raise awareness about the conservation and wise use of the environment and the natural resources.

A total of 129 teams from 56 public schools and 42 private institutions registered for the contest. Each group included four high school seniors and was supervised by their fine arts or natural science teachers.

On September 17, a jury that included outstanding local artists, assessed the 129 works and selected the 12 best murals. Those were then copied onto walls designated by the Municipal Government of La Paz. The preselected groups painted their murals on September 21, the first day of spring and Student's Day in Bolivia.

The walls designated by the municipality are located on Avenida Costanera, in La Paz, where the students painted their messages of environmental awareness beginning at 9:30 in the morning. The organizers announced that the three winners would be selected by public voting from September 22-25. An electronic ballot box was created in the webpage of the USAID in Bolivia: <http://bolivia.usaid.gov>.

The prizes for the first, second, and third places are \$1,500, \$1,000, and \$500 were respectively. Also, each of the 12 preselected schools will received sports equipment and supplies.

*USAID is the United States Agency for International Development. Its cooperation programs in Bolivia are aimed to improve the effectiveness, responsiveness, and transparency of the Bolivian democracy; to provide better economic opportunities to poor populations by developing business and trade initiatives; to develop best practices and services in healthcare; to promote the sustainable use of natural resources; and to promote social and economic development to reduce illicit coca production.*